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Review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to decision 13/1 of the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, in 2003. It looks at progress during the 2003-2004 biennium in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries. The report reviews the actions of developing countries, developed countries, intergovernmental organizations and organizations of the United Nations system.

In contrast to previous bienniums, substantial information on South-South cooperation has been generated and is accessible via the Internet. The report notes the increasing role and importance of developing countries in driving world trade and growth and the resulting expansion of South-South cooperation. It indicates that while a new trade geography may have emerged, there are serious problems facing many developing countries, especially in Africa and those that are least developed, landlocked or small islands.

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I. Introduction

1. South-South cooperation (SSC) moved into the mainstream of national and regional policies in the 2003-2004 biennium because of a broad trend towards regional integration. At present, there are over 210 regional integration agreements in force, covering about half of world trade. Developing countries account for about 40 per cent of existing arrangements. An important reason for this is the recognition by small and large developing countries alike that they need regional solidarity in facing a world of unequal players.

2. During 2003-2004, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) afforded SSC greater prominence in economic affairs, political governance and social policy. In Latin America, regional integration was credited with contributing to the recovery from the deep slump suffered by the region's major economies in 2001-2002. In Asia, intraregional trade grew to nearly half of the region's overall trade, and SSC made significant advances in every subregion despite long-standing political obstacles.

3. The value of SSC has become increasingly evident because of new research and analysis. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in its 2003 report "Assessing South-South regional integration", provided a cogent analysis of the factors behind the new geography of SSC. During the biennium, important studies on SSC were also released by the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).[1]

4. The trade of developing countries has risen from 20 to 30 per cent of the world total in the last two decades and intra-South trade is now growing faster than trade with developed countries. Over 40 per cent of developing-country exports go to other developing countries. The share of manufactures in developing-country exports is now some 70 per cent ($1,300 billion in 2000), up from 20 per cent ($115 billion) in 1980. In 2003, the United States of America for the first time imported more goods from developing countries than from developed countries. Developing countries now account for nearly half of the exports of Japan, over 40 per cent of the United States of America and one third of the European Union. This new strength undoubtedly helped developing countries to conclude the WTO framework agreement on agricultural trade in 2004 that aims at the reduction or elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies by major developed countries.

5. Of the global total of $560 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in 2003, developing countries attracted $172 billion, a 9 per cent increase over the 2002 level. China became the world's top destination for FDI in 2003, overtaking the United States of America, the traditional leader. A large share of the FDI of China is from the remittances of expatriates. Developing countries also continued to emerge as international investors. From 2001 to 2003, FDI flows from Asian countries averaged $37 billion per year; the outflow from Latin America and the Caribbean averaged $10 billion ($11 billion in 2003). Much of this outflow went to other developing countries; in Asia, two fifths of the outflow occurred between countries of the South. However, developed countries still dominated world investment flows, accounting for 90 per cent of the total in 2003.

6. Triangular cooperation reached a major turning point in 2004 as a number of developed countries brought together by the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) initiated closer working relations with southern countries that provide development assistance to poorer countries in the South. Many of the South-South initiatives mentioned in the present report have strong support from developed countries.

7. Market-based globalization has added to the importance of SSC: if developing countries are to engage advantageously with international markets characterized by multiple levels of coordination and cooperation among the developed countries, they must create their own shared capacity to address shared interests, challenges and needs. The scope of SSC has also expanded. The Marrakech Declaration of the Group of 77 and China called on developing countries to enhance cooperation among themselves in all areas of relations.

8. A number of intergovernmental meetings strengthened SSC during the biennium. They were: the Thirteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (February 2003); the first and second Asian-African Subregional Organizations Conference (July 2003 and August 2004); the first International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (August 2003); and the eleventh United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (June 2004). The Group of 77 and China convened a high-level conference on South-South cooperation (December 2003), a special ministerial meeting to commemorate the Group's fortieth anniversary (June 2004) and a high-level forum on trade and investment (December 2004). In March 2004, the World Bank organized its first ever conference to share SSC experiences and disseminate best practices.[2]

9. The present report is based on information drawn from the regular activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, responses to questionnaires sent to Governments and relevant organizations, published reports, interviews and key word searches on the Internet. It presents an illustrative but not an exhaustive account of South-South activities during the biennium.

II. Developing countries

10. Emergency relief was an aspect of SSC that came into the limelight in 2004, reflecting the development of new capacities in developing countries. Examples include assistance provided to Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal by Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia as the first responders to locust swarms in the summer of 2004 and the Indian assistance to Maldives and Sri Lanka following the December 2004 tsunami.

11. A number of UNDP field offices have reported local interest in SSC for relief activities. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UNDP country office organized a regional seminar in 2004 to disseminate the lessons learned from relief activities following the devastating 2003 earthquake in that country.

12. The Special Unit responded to this new trend by making the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation available to public- and private-sector partners wishing to contribute to reconstruction efforts in the

aftermath of the recent tsunami and other disasters. To date, contributions totalling $3 million have come from China, Tunisia and a private company in Brazil.

A. Africa

13. Regional cooperation and integration — actual, proposed and visionary — are more prominently on the agenda in Africa than in any other region. They are discussed at annual summit meetings of the African Union with its continent-spanning membership. A significant development was the first meeting of the Pan-African Parliament in Ethiopia in March 2004. Created as an organ of the African Union, the body is open to all 53 countries of the organization.

14. According to the 2004 report of ECA "Assessing regional integration in Africa", the continent's 14 subregional integration efforts have a mixed record of performance. ECA reported that, among the economic communities making considerable progress, members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for instance, have eliminated all tariffs on unprocessed goods from fellow members.

15. Much of the current planning for increased cooperation is conducted under the auspices of the African Union and NEPAD. Twenty top-priority infrastructure action programmes have been agreed, covering facilitation studies, investment projects (in the areas of energy, transport, water and sanitation, and information and communication technologies) and capacity-building projects. The total cost of infrastructure development projects over the short term has been estimated at $8.12 billion, half of it to be financed by the private sector.

16. *Trade*. By the broadest measure of regional interaction, trade, the performance of Africa is low. In 2003, intraregional merchandise trade represented 11 per cent of total trade, the lowest percentage in the developing world.

17. *Finance*. Of the more than 20 stock markets in Africa, most are undercapitalized and often ill-equipped to handle cross-border transactions. Only the Johannesburg Stock Exchange — the largest in Africa with $180 billion in capitalization — and the regional bourse of eight francophone States in West Africa actively facilitate foreign investment.

18. *Transport infrastructure*. African roads, railways and air transport links, where they exist, are often of low quality, while governmental rules and regulations further slow the flow of goods and people within countries and across national borders. All this imposes heavy costs on trade. Under NEPAD, regional land and air transport networks and transport corridors are being established to expedite the movement of goods and people.

19. *Peer Review Mechanism*. A particularly important South-South aspect of NEPAD is its African Peer Review Mechanism, which is to be used to assess, monitor and promote political, economic and corporate governance and the observance of human rights norms. Since the review process was begun in Ghana in May 2004, support missions have gone to Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda and Uganda. The number of member countries volunteering to be members of the peer review mechanism has grown from the original 16 to 23, demonstrating the willingness of African nations to improve in key governance and socio-economic areas.

20. Although regional integration in Africa was slower than expected, there was notable progress in several areas during the biennium. The West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa made advances in trade liberalization and facilitation. ECOWAS and the East African Community eased the trans-border movements of people by issuing regional passports. Negotiations during 2003 and 2004 resulted in the signing of a treaty establishing a customs union among East African Community members in January 2005. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) continued building a regional power grid and infrastructure for regional development corridors. The African Union, ECOWAS and SADC played leading roles in peace and security.

B. Asia

21. Support for SSC also grew in Asia in 2003 and 2004. The Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), launched by Thailand in 2002, has as its ultimate goal the creation of an "Asian Community" encompassing the entire continent. Its membership stood at 25 in 2004. In that year, ACD ministers meeting at Qingdao, China, agreed on 13 areas for priority action, including 11 specific initiatives on energy.

22. Regional cooperation has the best track record in South-East Asia, where it has been driven by a combination of treaty-based action by Governments and market-oriented action by corporations. Mainly because of the close economic linkages between East and South-East Asia, the intraregional trade of Asia now accounts for more than half its overall trade.

23. The 1997 Asian financial crisis, which was precipitated by the flight of short-term capital from South-East Asia, energized SSC aimed at reducing regional vulnerabilities in a region where members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)+3 have close to 20 per cent of world savings.[3] In June 2003, ASEAN+3 agreed to harmonize financial policies and standards, regulatory systems and tax treatments. A ministerial meeting in June 2003 in Thailand launched the billion-dollar Asian Bond Fund, which by the end of 2004 was fully invested in United States dollar-denominated bonds issued in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand. The participating countries are now studying the feasibility of a pan-Asian bond index fund and a fund of bond funds, providing a convenient, cost-effective, diversified instrument for regional and global investors.

24. Other cooperative steps to address Asia's massive problems of poverty (two thirds of the world's poor live in the region) and huge needs for infrastructural development are in progress across the continent. The biennium saw significant movement in the ESCAP framework to set standards and complete the pan-Asian highway and railway networks. For instance, in April 2003, an agreement was signed to carry forward work on the pan-Asian highway; the roads of 32 countries are already linked by the project. When completed, the system will ease the problems of landlocked Central Asia and facilitate travel to capital cities, major harbours, tourist attractions and industrial and commercial centres.

25. In October 2003, the 10-member ASEAN signed a watershed agreement to establish an economic community by 2020. China and India became the first countries outside ASEAN to accede to the group's founding Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia, which renounces the use of force. The two

countries and Japan also signed separate agreements with ASEAN to reduce trade barriers, with a view to establishing a free trade area that will cover Asia's largest economies and most of its people.

26. An agreement establishing the South Asian Free Trade Area was signed at a summit meeting of the seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in January 2004. SAARC leaders also signed a social charter for the subregion and an additional protocol on the financing of terrorism and confirmed the creation of a SAARC health surveillance centre and a rapid deployment health response system.

27. Conferences of the Boao Forum for Asia, a non-governmental, not-for-profit international organization established in February 2001, have become important venues for Asian as well as other Governments and business leaders to discuss issues of common concern and to agree on mutually beneficial strategies for action. In the aftermath of the tsunami of 26 December 2004 that affected 14 Asian countries, the 2005 Forum has taken on even greater significance.

28. At a Ministerial Meeting in Thailand in February 2004, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand agreed to create a free trade zone by 2017. India agreed to conduct a feasibility study for a deep-sea port in Myanmar to serve as a transportation hub between South and South-East Asia.

29. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, constituting the Central Asian Cooperation Organization, agreed on a range of common economic, humanitarian and security objectives at a summit in July 2003. The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council initiated a customs union on 1 January 2003 after 15 years of negotiations.

C. Latin America and the Caribbean

30. South-South cooperation in Latin America took a significant step forward in 2004 with the signing of an agreement constituting the South American Community of Nations (SACN). Meeting in Cuzco in December 2004, leaders of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) agreed to strengthen the region as a differentiated, dynamic factor in its foreign relations; deepen in a free-trade area the convergence of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), the Andean Community and Chile; and advance towards greater economic, social and institutional integration. The Governments of Guyana and Suriname (members of the Caribbean Community) will collaborate in the process.

31. The South American Community of Nations, with 361 million people and a collective gross domestic product of $1 trillion, is being envisaged as a great decentralized development programme that will grow around a number of major "integration and development hubs".[4] This vision has already reached the blueprint stage through the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America, the programme to develop South American infrastructure, which has completed the planning and design of 10 major integration and development hubs. Each will have 32 anchor projects budgeted at $4.2 billion over a five-year period.

32. South-South trade was a significant factor in export growth in the region. Brazil led the region with a growth rate of 21 per cent in exports, helped by strong demand from Argentina and China, its second and third largest markets.

33. The Latin America and Caribbean region has been committed to globalization for 15 years, and its various Governments have been resolute in opening up their economies while seeking greater stability, export growth and diversification and increased FDI. Lack of growth from such policies and deepening inequalities within and among countries have brought Governments back from the laissez-faire approach of the last decade that emphasized the free play of market forces. There is now a regional consensus on the need for Governments to set the framework for market forces and for firm social policies to match economic decision-making.

34. *Intraregional trade*. Intra-Latin American trade represented only 15.4 per cent of its total trade in 2003, as against 48.9 per cent for Asia. The difference is accounted for by the fact that in Asia, the emergence of China as a major manufacturing hub for Western transnational corporations has led them to create supply and production chains spanning the region. The same has not happened when manufacturing industries have moved into Latin America; supply lines have tended to run North-South (for example, the material used in export-oriented apparel manufacturing is usually of American provenance).

35. *Central America*. During the period 2003-2004, a new hub for South-South activity was Central America, where continuing progress in conflict resolution, democracy and economic development allowed the relaunch of the regional integration process that had collapsed in 1969. The Presidents of Central American countries have pledged to press ahead in creating their own customs union. Ninety-two per cent of tariff lines have been harmonized, a treaty on investment and services has been signed and a mechanism for dispute settlement has been implemented.

36. *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*. In 2003, the 15-member CARICOM welcomed its first francophone member, Haiti. In advance of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy projected for 2005, the leaders declared that, effective 1 August 2003, there would be free movement of graduates, media workers, musicians, entertainers and sports men and women to work across the region. Free movement for capital and for business entrepreneurs and their managerial, technical and supervisory staff as well as immediate family was also promised. The summit mandated an expert group to study options for governance to deepen the integration process.

D. Pivotal countries

37. As is evident from the foregoing examples, the number of developing countries that play a pivotal role in SSC now far exceeds the 23 originally identified by the Special Unit in 1997.[5] However, some continue to be more active than others. Brazil, China, Cuba, India and Qatar were among the most prominent advocates of SSC during the 2003-2004 biennium.

38. Brazil has been a leader in SSC with Africa and Asia, as well as within Latin America. It has one of the most vital programmes for supporting other developing

countries in the areas of public administration, health, education, agriculture, environment, energy and small enterprises.

39. China, a significant market for developing-country exports of commodities, has signed a wide range of trade and development agreements, especially in the energy sector. India too is emerging as a global market force, especially in the information technology industry. Both countries have strong programmes that provide training for nationals of other developing countries and support for building institutional capacity, and both commit substantial funding for such projects. In its response to the Special Unit questionnaire, India stated that during the period 2003-2004, it had hosted 3,193 participants from 145 countries under 192 educational and training programmes and had sent 43 experts to work on cooperation programmes in 11 countries. The cost to the Government was $14.3 million. In addition, the private sector in India is involved in extensive SSC, while the UNDP country office noted that the Confederation of Indian Industries was one of many world-class institutions in the country.

40. Cuba continued to provide a substantial number of medical personnel to African and Latin American countries during the biennium under review; about 28,000 medical personnel are operating in other developing countries. In late March 2005 the Government offered to send more medical doctors to needy countries in their fight against HIV/AIDS. It also provided the venue and leadership for the design of the framework for the implementation of the Havana Programme of Action by hosting the eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee of the Group of 77 for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries.

41. Qatar organized the High-level Forum on Trade and Investment of the Group of 77 in December 2004 and will continue to provide leadership in SSC by hosting the Second South Summit in June 2005. Egypt, as a key player in Africa and West Asia, Indonesia, as part of ASEAN, Malaysia, as current chairman of NAM, and Nigeria, as the largest member of ECOWAS, have all been leaders of SSC. So indeed have Morocco, which in 2003 hosted the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation for the Group of 77 and China; and Tunisia, which will host the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005.

42. A long-standing Nigerian programme of technical assistance to other developing countries has sent 1,677 volunteers to 33 countries. Additionally, Nigeria launched a new African digital solidarity fund in March 2004 to help to implement the plan of action to be adopted at the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society.

43. The Philippines, responding to the Special Unit questionnaire, indicated that a governmental committee coordinates South-South activities, which during the 2003-2004 biennium involved training 26 participants from six countries at an expense of $47,000.

44. Countries that have made clear their need for SSC include: 50 least developed countries highly vulnerable to external economic shocks; 45 small island developing States characterized by a set of special vulnerabilities, including isolation for some and low elevation above sea level for most; and 31 landlocked developing countries that lack access to inexpensive sea-borne trade and have inadequate infrastructure

for overland trade. Many of the examples of SSC described in previous sections cover these especially disadvantaged countries.

45. Almost every aspect of NEPAD activity has a special relevance to the 33 least developed countries in Africa. In Asia, the plans for transcontinental highway and rail networks are especially important for landlocked countries. It is important to note that special disadvantages do not prevent a country from engaging in SSC as a donor as well as a recipient; Nepal, for instance, hosts the headquarters of SAARC. Samoa, one of the countries responding to the Special Unit questionnaire, hosted 12 participants from four countries in one training programme; sent 39 participants to 31 programmes in other developing countries (mainly China, Singapore and Thailand); and established two information networks to support development with support from Malaysia. The total cost of all Samoan SSC over the biennium was $254,252.

E. Interregional cooperation

46. Growing complementarities in the capacities and needs of developing countries have led to increasing attention to the prospects for interregional SSC. For example, in December 2003 in Marrakech, the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation adopted a Framework for Action that included a number of initiatives that would promote interregional cooperation:

(a) A UNDP-supported study on the potential for intensifying interactions between businesses in developing countries and for joint ventures in different areas;

(b) A Group of 77 and China conference on SSC in the development of physical infrastructure for development;

(c) An international seminar on food security, and measures to develop SSC on debt management;

(d) Intensified SSC for the preservation, protection and promotion of traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore, as well as the building of consensus and the development of legally binding international instruments on intellectual property rights regarding these issues.

47. Interregional cooperation is also growing because of increased trade. The raw material needs of the booming economy of China have led to its growing trade with Africa and Latin America; indeed, the country is now the third largest export market for Brazil.

48. One of the key developments during the biennium was a trilateral agreement among India, Brazil and South Africa (known as the IBSA initiative) to address a range of issues of common interest, including interregional shipping and air links. The countries agreed to establish an anti-poverty fund to be managed by UNDP. Brazil has been active in promoting MERCOSUR links with China, India and South Africa.

49. The current role of Indonesia in SSC continues to reflect its early involvement in the process as host of the 1955 Bandung Conference of African and Asian countries. To prepare the ground for the fiftieth anniversary of the Bandung Conference, Indonesia teamed up with South Africa to organize two meetings of subregional African and Asian organizations, one in 2003, the other in 2004. At the

latter meeting, it was agreed to establish a new Asian-African strategic partnership as an expression of the new political will of Africa and Asia to achieve a better future.

50. The South-South health-care delivery programme initiated by Cuba, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Nigeria and adopted by the first South Summit in April 2000 continued to grow. Under the programme in 2004, 10 medical volunteers from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya went to Benin for a two-year tour of duty.

F. Other South-South partners

51. *Civil society organizations*. A wide range of civil society actors is engaged in SSC, including academic institutions and networks engaged in research, advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that deliver social services.

52. Among the most prominent networks in the 2003-2004 biennium were the Third World Academy of Sciences (renamed the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World but retaining its acronym, TWAS) and the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations. In 2003, the two collaborated to issue the third edition of *Profiles of Institutions for Scientific Exchange and Training in the South*, outlining the capabilities of more than 500 outstanding research institutions in the developing world. TWAS has continued to receive strong support from developing countries that have well-developed capacities in science. In 2004, Brazil, China and India announced that they would each offer 50 fellowships a year through TWAS for scientists from other developing countries.

53. During 2003 and 2004, the Third World Network (TWN) designed and implemented a project that assisted developing countries to improve their national policies and capacities to enable them to more effectively manage, participate in and contribute to the shaping of a more inclusive form of globalization. The project supported TWN activities in relation to trade and WTO issues, finance and development. It also backed developing countries in their preparation to participate in major United Nations meetings, including those of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the World Social Forum.

54. As Governments focus on governance issues under NEPAD, there is also increased attention to promoting civil-society involvement. A notable initiative in this context was witnessed in April 2004, when NGOs and civil society organizations from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Somalia and Uganda came together in a forum under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The forum deals with the major problems facing the region, including armed conflict, severe environmental degradation, general insecurity concerning livelihoods, and increasing terrorism. Also on the agenda are such issues as high illiteracy levels, deteriorating public health and the increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

55. The World Trade University, launched as a global private-public partnership at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (2001), has undertaken several noteworthy programmes in collaboration with the Special Unit, including the first ever World Summit of Indigenous Entrepreneurs in 2003, attended by delegations from 39 countries, and the very first World Tourism Marketing Summit in China (2004), which brought together over 500 public- and

private-sector executives from 58 countries to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation on joint venture development.

56. *Private sector*. With outward FDI stock of $859 billion in 2002, transnational corporations from developing countries are becoming a significant factor in the world flows of FDI and other aspects of SSC. They have built their own international production systems and in some sectors are leading players. Asian corporations have led the field in investing abroad; in 2003, investments totalled $635 billion, with more than half in other developing countries. Chinese corporations have become important investors abroad; at the end of 2003, China's total stock of FDI was estimated at $37 billion. Investments have gone not only to other Asian countries but also to Africa and Latin America. FDI flows from India have risen rapidly in recent years. About half of Indian investments are in other developing countries.

57. UNCTAD reported in 2004 that the growing foreign role of southern corporations was not receiving much attention from the Governments of the South, even though this aspect of their integration into the world economy would be "a challenge that more and more of them [would] face".[6]

III. Developed countries

58. As noted above, developed countries have been strong supporters of SSC. The European Union, Japan, the Netherlands, the Nordic countries and the United States of America have all provided substantial funding for many of the initiatives mentioned earlier. More significantly, following consultations in 2004, UNDP and OECD/DAC held a meeting in February 2005 to promote greater dialogue among the world's principal providers of development assistance. Both OECD and non-OECD participants expressed interest in advancing South-South and triangular cooperation in order to improve aid efficiency and effectiveness by emphasizing ownership and inclusive partnership.

59. DAC members have been increasing support for SSC. Japan has continued its long-standing initiatives linking African and Asian business communities and its support for the New Rice for Africa project, which is now spreading the use of high-yield rice varieties bred to suit African conditions. Another significant initiative is British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Commission on Africa, established in May 2003 to recommend action by the Group of Eight to help Africa.

60. A new development during the biennium was the extension of formally budgeted support for building African peacekeeping capacity. The European Union established the African Peace Facility in November 2003, committing 250 million euros to promote African solutions to African crises by providing the African Union with the financial muscle to back up its political resolve with concrete acts. According to the European Commission, support for peacekeeping must be seen as an integral part of fostering development. In June 2004, the United States of America announced that it would seek Congressional approval of a $660 million programme that would, in concert with other members of the Group of Eight, train 75,000 Africans over five years for peace enforcement and constabulary roles and address the need for the equipment, transport and logistical support for the functioning of 10 African battalions.

61. A number of European countries have provided support for SSC through their bilateral aid programmes. For instance, Finland has supported SADC regional programmes for information and communication, forestry and gene technology. Japan has provided advisory services for the SADC secretariat; more than $300 million for mine clearance, advocacy and assistance to refugees; and additional funding to support regional programmes to build infrastructure, combat HIV/AIDS and improve food security.

IV. United Nations system

62. Throughout the United Nations system, much South-South activity is undertaken because the availability of experts from and institutions in developing countries makes it the most cost-effective option. In many cases, such as when the United Nations Environment Programme addresses cross-border environmental problems or when the World Health Organization deals with the spread of communicable diseases, cooperation among developing countries is imperative. In yet other cases involving social issues requiring consideration of cultural or attitudinal sensitivities, it is the preferred modality. Whatever the motive or form, SSC is now central to the operational activities of the United Nations system.

63. The proliferation of South-South activities of the United Nations system has made coordination important. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) took note of this in its 2003 overview report,[7] stating that there was "a need for the United Nations system to further enhance its collective contribution to strengthening regional capacities, particularly those of the regional economic communities, the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development secretariat". It added that "the regional consultative mechanism itself needs to make a renewed effort to further clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies operating at the regional and subregional levels in Africa, in order to avoid duplication and ensure greater complementarity of efforts".[8] CEB will devote one of its forthcoming meetings to an in-depth review of these issues. The need for such a review is underscored by the examples noted below, which illustrate the diversity of United Nations system involvement in SSC.

64. Perhaps the bodies of the United Nations system that are the most actively and continuously involved in SSC are the regional commissions in the developing world. However, even in the regional commissions, the term "South-South cooperation" is not used to describe much relevant activity. For instance, in ESCAP, which has expanded its use of SSC, only a very specific programme element is recognized as South-South: the use of the TCDC supplementary fund to pay for the travel of individuals from least developed, landlocked and small island developing countries to train in countries offering capacity-building opportunities. ECA promotes SSC through, inter alia, business tours, the preparation of studies to guide fiscal strategies, and sponsorship of collaborative activities that have increased exchanges between African countries and China, India, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea. In support of the growing regional cooperation in Africa, it developed subregional integration projects in water management, energy, transport and communications. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has been actively promoting more market-oriented integration to face the challenges of globalization.

65. The regional aspect has become increasingly important in the peace and security work of the United Nations partly because of the increased competence and capacity at that level and the cost-effectiveness of regionally owned and operated initiatives. In Africa, for instance, there has been a trend towards authorizing and supporting regional action. The General Assembly has invited the international community to support the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), especially in the establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and the Central African early warning system. The United Nations Secretariat has also consulted with ECCAS on a multinational force for Central Africa. In 2003, UNDP started a project to strengthen ECCAS capacity for regional cooperation and integration. Implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), the project seeks to relaunch subregional economic integration by lowering national barriers that impede trade, travel and capital movements.

66. In September 2004, the UNDP Executive Board decided to include SSC among the drivers of development effectiveness in the multi-year funding framework, thus making it a cross-cutting element in all five UNDP practice areas. A preliminary analysis of the data submitted on 139 programme countries indicates that there is a high level of emphasis on South-South approaches in 40 per cent of UNDP country programmes. In Africa, SSC is most prominent in responding to HIV/AIDS and fostering democratic governance. In the Asia and the Pacific region, it is most used in crisis prevention and recovery and in dealing with energy and the environment. In Latin America, the top areas are crisis prevention and recovery and fostering democratic governance.

67. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States reported that it had sponsored 24 SSC programmes involving 12 countries and over 380 participants at a cost of $465,000. In addition, it had assigned over 50 developing-country experts to five countries in the region. Developed countries (four) and international organizations funded seven of the 24 programmes, including a particularly successful one on aid coordination that had engaged all the Arab States, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe in an exchange of information on policy and institutional reform, capacity development and transfer of technology.

68. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States reported a range of activities that it described as "East-East" and that were funded by emerging donors such as the Czech Republic and by traditional donors such as Canada. Government ministries and institutions, NGOs, the private sector and academic/research institutions were engaged in a variety of programmes. At UNDP headquarters, there were 190 participants from 12 countries in 20 programmes budgeted at $500,000; at the country level, there were 40 projects in 15 countries and a budget of $2 million. Cooperation focused mainly on improved democratic governance, poverty reduction, energy and environment, and combating HIV/AIDS.

69. The responses from country offices to the Special Unit questionnaire showed very broad similarities despite differences in the frameworks within which SSC was approached. Democratic governance and poverty reduction were mentioned most often as the practice areas in which SSC came into play. The question about which type of support country offices would like from the Special Unit drew a range of responses. The form of support requested most often was help in identifying appropriate experts from the South. The need for this support was also reflected in

proposals for a network of South-South experts, databases facilitating access to available expertise and mechanisms to help to build country-office capacities. Other proposals concerned the organization of workshops to enhance the knowledge of government officials regarding SSC, the submission of South-South programme proposals to country offices, the dissemination of information on best practices, the design of a mechanism to coordinate cooperation at the country level and the formulation of a guide to successful SSC.

70. The Third Cooperation Framework (2005-2007), which covers the activities of the Special Unit, includes three significant shifts reflecting lessons drawn from the implementation of earlier frameworks: (a) a move to reinforce advocacy with effective implementation of South-South action plans; (b) a focus on the Millennium Development Goals, emphasizing the creation of an enabling environment through innovative public-private partnerships in order to play a more active role in helping to meet the priority needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries; and (c) the transformation of the Special Unit into a more active South-South knowledge management centre, facilitating access to, inter alia, rosters of southern experts, best practices and proven southern solutions in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

71. The Special Unit has continued to publish its journal, *Cooperation South*, and has maintained the computerized information system Web of Information for Development (WIDE), with its array of online services, including information on southern expertise and innovative development practices. WIDE has the potential to become a valuable information-sharing platform, but to achieve this goal, the level of connectedness among developing-country focal points for SSC must be increased. Of the 112 national SSC focal points currently listed on WIDE, only 18 provide website addresses and only 48 include e-mail addresses.

72. Recognizing that SSC is in the first instance regional in nature and most effective in this context, the Special Unit held extensive consultations on NEPAD in Addis Ababa and Johannesburg. It will also work to complement the South-South efforts of subregional and regional groupings such as ASEAN, CARICOM, the Gulf Cooperation Council, MERCOSUR, NEPAD and SAARC.

73. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued its broad-based support for South-South trade during the 2003-2004 biennium. It produced the substantive background papers discussed at the Group of 77 and China meeting on SSC in Marrakech in December 2003. Cooperation among developing countries was a major element at the eleventh session of UNCTAD in June 2004: a secretariat report highlighting the role of SSC in shaping a new geography of international trade received a great deal of attention. A pre-conference forum highlighted the potential for trade between Brazil and India. Also, the third round of negotiations under the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries was initiated at the conference. Trade among GSTP members is already close to $2 trillion, or about 55 per cent of the international trade of all developing countries.

74. In 2003, in its first annual *World Trade Report*, the World Trade Organization (WTO) dealt prominently with the swift growth of South-South commerce between 1990 and 2001, concentrated mostly among a few countries in Asia. It noted that the growth in South-South trade was related to the significant lowering of tariff barriers over the decade and that since the barriers could be further reduced, there remained

substantial potential for expansion. Other obstacles to broad growth were high transport, insurance and communication costs; difficulties in trade financing; and insufficient marketing and distribution capacities. Lack of product diversification also created difficulties in a number of developing countries. Solutions to these issues will need to be found if opportunities for South-South trade are to be fully harnessed.

75. The International Trade Centre continued to promote South-South trade through buyer-seller meetings and the LatinPharma programme, which seeks to use the pharmaceutical production capacities of Latin America to meet regional demands. It also provides data and analyses that reveal South-South opportunities for trade. Its Personal Computer Trade Analysis System, available on CD-ROM, provides easy access to information about international trade flows and patterns, including the leading import/export markets for a specific product, the market share of a particular country and the level of competition.

76. At the end of 2003, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had 24 integrated programmes or country service frameworks in Africa, the primary focus of its technical assistance activities. Its Cleaner Production Programme, which operates through a network of centres covering 30 countries, has trained over 1,000 technicians and conducted awareness-raising seminars for 24,000 industry personnel. In January 2004, UNIDO initiated a major interregional South-South initiative when it signed a memorandum of understanding with India on a project to facilitate the transfer of technologies and expertise relating to low-cost housing to African, Asian and Latin American countries.

77. In an important South-South initiative, the World Bank convened a conference in Shanghai in May 2004 to consider how projects that had succeeded in reducing poverty in developing countries could be scaled up to levels that would help in the realization of the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty globally by 2015. In preparation for the conference, about 100 case studies were compiled and 11 field visits were organized in eight countries. The authors of the studies and those who went on the field visits attended the conference, where practitioners from developing countries discussed what had been successful and why.

78. The results of the deliberations were instructive. The key role of leadership was reaffirmed, but not necessarily leadership of a political nature. There was consensus that if a project involved at least one truly committed person, it stood a good chance of succeeding. Willingness to try different approaches was seen as a key ingredient for success. Funding was viewed as another key factor — not necessarily its magnitude but the timing and certainty of it; financial uncertainty was generally viewed as a project killer. South-South sharing of expertise and experience was considered to have greater credibility than North-South transfers. Perhaps the most important lesson was that having a good rationale for a project was not enough to guarantee success: proper implementation was imperative. In the period after the conference, an active network of informal consultations and cooperation has been maintained, involving hundreds of practitioners around the world.

79. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) uses expertise from developing countries in its technical assistance programme whenever it is available. Its SSC activities are conducted regionally and paid for almost entirely (95 per cent) by recipient countries, which are motivated to cooperate by the existence of

common challenges and limited resources for dealing with them. Regional development banks provide some of the funding, with bilateral donors stepping in when their interests are involved. Some projects have drawn support from the European Commission, the United States Federal Aviation Administration and the private sector (Airbus Industries, the Boeing Company and General Electric). The total budget for the ICAO technical assistance programme was $105.4 million in 2003 and $124.5 million in 2004.

80. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) promotes SSC particularly under its Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), which deploys agricultural experts from one developing country to another. In 2004, SPFS was operational in 69 countries, emphasizing low-cost innovations and the creation of local institutional capacities to ensure food security at the community level. Experience has shown that SPFS programmes typically cost about $12,000 annually for experts and $7,200 per year for technicians, compared to $120,000 to $200,000 per year for conventional North-South technical assistance. Programme costs are shared between the participating developing countries and bilateral and multilateral donors, with the support of FAO.

81. South-South cooperation is inherent in every major programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It is central to such UNESCO programmes as those on regional seas, education for all and man and the biosphere. For instance, the latter programme is supported by a variety of regional and subregional networks supported by UNESCO regional offices. Each of the networks focuses on information exchange on regional or subregional issues, with some also engaging in capacity-building. Networks functioning during the biennium included those in Africa, the Arab States, East Asia, Latin America, South-East Asia and South and Central Asia.

82. The formal South-South activities of the United Nations University (UNU), budgeted at $50,000 for the 2003-2004 biennium, involved two training programmes on forestry management and on appraising sustainable development. Other elements of UNU programming have strong South-South elements, including its Comparative Regional Integration Studies programme, which maintains an Internet-accessible database that covers most developing country groupings.

V. Conclusions and lessons learned

83. South-South cooperation is beginning to change the geography of international relations, particularly in the areas of trade, finance, investment and the provision of development assistance and in efforts towards regional integration. However, more credible, systematic reporting on South-South activities on the ground is needed, especially at the national, subregional and regional levels.

84. Developed countries have continued to extend valuable, effective support to SSC. It is notable that, following negotiations initiated in 2004, principal providers of development assistance came together in January 2005 to explore ways of promoting mutual understanding and closer collaboration. It is equally significant that in the joint Chairs' statement issued at the end of the meeting, OECD Development Assistance Committee members and other participants agreed that South-South and triangular cooperation can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of aid by emphasizing ownership and inclusive partnerships.[9] This opens the way

for forging triangular partnerships with the involvement of developed and middle-income countries aimed at assisting least developed countries.

85. Increasingly, trade and investment flows are expanding the role of the private sector in SSC. This broadens the scope of cooperation among developing countries as various actors engage in a great variety of activities, ranging from project-level initiatives to macroeconomic issues, which in turn calls for the formation of more robust public/private-sector partnerships in efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

86. A large volume of information is generated on SSC, much of it accessible on the World Wide Web. However, there is little overall analysis of trends or consideration of possible synergies or conflicts of interest. Improved networking among the various actors would help to scale up benefits from South-South initiatives.

87. Opportunities for scaling up SSC have increased largely thanks to the development gains achieved in a number of countries; funding, however, remains a major constraint, especially among least developed countries.

88. The points referred to in the preceding five paragraphs signal the need for more attention to SSC in terms of data collection, trend analysis, policy formulation and resource mobilization. If SSC is to result in balanced, sustainable growth, its processes will need to include mechanisms for effective programme formulation and implementation at the national, regional and global levels.

89. To implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, Governments have appointed national focal points, but most are not active either domestically or internationally. If activated as a network, the focal points could be key players in providing Governments with a strategic overview and in overseeing the implementation of South-South programmes.

VI. Recommendations

90. South-South cooperation should be included as a formal agenda item for consideration in intergovernmental reviews of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. To facilitate such reviews, all parts of the United Nations system should be asked to include in their relevant periodic reports to their governing bodies and to the Economic and Social Council a section on SSC in their respective areas of competence.

91. The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation should be encouraged to help to deepen South-South and triangular cooperation arrangements, nurture market-based self-sustaining mechanisms and foster innovative public-private partnerships, including with civil society organizations, NGOs and academic institutions, in order to respond more effectively to the pressing needs of the least developed and other countries in difficult development circumstances.

92. The national focal points appointed to help to implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action should be linked electronically and augmented with other focal points in the private sector and civil society organizations. All focal points should be encouraged to establish and maintain web pages linked to the WIDE website as a

venue for sharing information on experts, best practices and proven development solutions in the South.

93. The technological tools used by UNDP to gather information on SSC in the activities supported under the multi-year funding framework should be shared with the other organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system in order to capture the South-South dimension in their work.

Notes

[1] For ECA, see "Assessing regional integration in Africa", ECA policy research report, 2004, at http://www.uneca.org/aria. For ESCAP, see "Meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation", 2004, Sales No. E.04.II.F.24. For WTO, see *World Trade Report 2003*, at http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/anrep_e/world_trade_report_2003_e.pdf.

[2] Scaling up Poverty Reduction: A Global Learning Process and Conference in Shanghai, 25-27 May 2004. At http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/reducingpoverty/about.html.

[3] Asian foreign exchange reserves amounted to $2.4 trillion at the beginning of 2005, with the developing countries of the region accounting for $1.6 trillion. According to the Reuters News Agency, which cited International Monetary Fund and Morgan Stanley analysts, China, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province of China were reported to have almost $1 trillion in excess reserves, the bulk held in United States dollars. See "Asia's problem of plenty", Reuters, 18 February 2005.

[4] Secretary General of the Andean Community, Ambassador Allan Wagner Tizón. At http://www.comunidadandina.org/ingles/press/speeches.htm.

[5] For the list of original pivotal countries, see *Cooperation South*, No. 1 (1998), p. 80.

[6] UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2004: The Shift Towards Services*, at http://www.unctad.org/en/docs//wir2004_en.pdf.

[7] E/2004/67, para. 33.

[8] Ibid.

[9] See http://www.oecd.org/document/49/0,2340,en_2649_33721_34060145_1_1_1_1,00.html.

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Corrigendum

Paragraph 12, final sentence

The final sentence *should read* To date, contributions totalling over $3 million have come from Algeria, China and a private company in Brazil.

* SSC/14/L.2.

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Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to decisions 13/1 and 13/2 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. It covers: (a) the status of the implementation of the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning South-South Cooperation and the common results framework that has been incorporated into the Guidelines; (b) the status, management and use of resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation; and (c) the organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme. Based on the analysis contained in the report, a number of specific recommendations are made to advance the objectives of South-South cooperation.

[1] The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, decided to change the name of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

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I. Introduction

1. In its decisions 13/1 and 13/2 of 30 May 2003, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation stressed that South-South cooperation (SSC), as an important element of international cooperation for development, offered viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of economic growth and development. It noted that a growing number of developing countries were initiating SSC activities designed to benefit a large number of developing countries. It also encouraged developing countries that had not already done so to put in place a national SSC policy and coordination mechanism as part of their development programmes and strategies. These would include a clear delineation of the role of the national focal point for SSC and the various partners for such cooperation. To further these goals, the High-level Committee requested the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to take further concrete measures to integrate the use of SSC into their regular cooperation programmes.

2. Within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the High-level Committee requested the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, which is designated as the overall focal point for SSC in the United Nations development system, to undertake a number of measures to further mainstream SSC into the development process. It requested the Special Unit to promote the use of information and communication technology, with a special emphasis on assisting least developed countries and African countries, to facilitate their connectivity and use of this technology.

3. The High-level Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Special Unit to promote South-South knowledge-sharing through its compilation and dissemination of successful practices and innovative experiences in developing countries and commended the efforts of the Special Unit in establishing the Internet-based system for SSC, the Web of Information for Development, or WIDE. It requested the relevant institutions of the United Nations development system to make information in their existing databases on SSC activities more accessible through WIDE. The High-level Committee further requested the Special Unit to assist in documenting and disseminating information on the special problems and needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, with a view to helping to provide a platform for the international development community to help to address the special concerns of these countries. It also encouraged all actors in the development process, with the assistance of the Special Unit, to draw lessons from experiences in triangular cooperation and design innovative SSC programmes.

4. The High-level Committee approved the revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning South-South Cooperation (formerly Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries), including the annex on the United Nations Common Results Framework on Technical and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, and urged the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to follow them in the design, formulation, implementation, evaluation and reporting on their programmes. It also decided to change the name of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation with no change in its mandate or the scope of its activities.

5. Recognizing the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing SSC, including triangular cooperation, the High-level Committee welcomed the financial contributions made by some developed and developing countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation managed by the Special Unit and invited all countries with the capacity to do so to make contributions to the Trust Fund as well as to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. Furthermore, it urged the Special Unit to develop a clear system for the management and use of the resources of the Trust Fund. Finally, the High-level Committee reiterated the need to increase the UNDP core resources, which would also increase the volume of resources available for promoting SSC activities.

6. Consistent with the above-mentioned decisions, the present report reviews: (a) the implementation of the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning South-South Cooperation, including common indicators; (b) the status, management and use of resources for the promotion of SSC as well as the development of a forward-looking strategy for resource mobilization; and (c) the UNDP organizational, administrative and financial arrangements in support of SSC.

II. Implementation of the United Nations system Guidelines and common indicators for the promotion of South-South cooperation

7. The current Guidelines have been progressively reviewed and revised since their initial formulation in 1993 to reflect, among other things, new global realities and the basic reorientation of SSC as expressed in the strategy document on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3) and other decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the UNDP Executive Board. In their present form, the Guidelines are designed to foster innovative approaches and methods that will build on existing modalities of SSC. By providing a framework to promote and catalyse South-South interactions, the Guidelines are instrumental in ensuring that the United Nations development system "thinks South-South" and is permeated not only by the concept but also by its practical application. The incorporation of the common indicators into the Guidelines has provided a useful tool that will assist United Nations organizations and agencies to systemize and harmonize reports on activities in the area of SSC that are prepared for submission to the High-level Committee.

8. With the gradual adoption over the past 27 years of a more systematic approach, and more recently within the framework of the Guidelines, the United Nations development system is now well-positioned to ensure that SSC is central to the operational activities of the programmes of its organizations and agencies. While giving first consideration to the use of SSC may not yet be universal, in practice, the United Nations system has increased its use of Southern expertise for practical reasons. It is usually more cost-effective and it is often the most logical option, as in the case of efforts to deal with communicable diseases, inter-country environmental problems and subregional social issues. The challenge for the United Nations system now is to make the use of SSC a more explicit policy tool that will build on the initiatives already undertaken. The brief account provided in the following

paragraphs aims to illustrate the actions taken by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to comply with the Guidelines on SSC.

9. Most United Nations agencies have mandated policies for the promotion and use of SSC in their respective development programmes. They have also put in place relevant institutional arrangements, including the designation of SSC focal points, to advance the use of SSC. Most organizations have promoted initiatives that are designed to integrate the South-South concept into the activities carried out in their respective fields of competence. They contribute to human resource development and institution-building by supporting the use of Southern experts and transfers of technology. In addition, networking among institutions and information systems is being carried out on a regional basis. Moreover, the technical agencies of the United Nations development system are encouraging the exchange of technical information and directories of national institutions as well as helping to support seminars, workshops and study tours aimed at strengthening SSC.

10. In keeping with the worldwide trend towards greater regional integration and the need for greater regional solidarity in the developing world, United Nations regional commissions have come to play an increasingly important role in providing an overall framework for SSC at the regional level. They have given priority to SSC in virtually all of their technical assistance programmes. Promotion of SSC by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) included technology programmes to improve industrial development, the promotion of small-scale enterprises and sponsorship of joint workshops. ECA collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on such initiatives as fostering interregional private-sector linkages, sharing experiences in regional monetary and trade agreements and furthering linkages of South-South trade information. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean promoted more market-oriented regional integration in order to realize greater stability, reduce deficits, encourage export growth and diversification and increase foreign investment. SSC activities of ESCAP included workshops and seminars to sensitize South-South national focal points. ESCAP also entered into a third-country training programme with pivotal developing countries to enhance SSC through bilateral arrangements.

11. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) continued to nurture the rapid growth of South-South trade and commerce. UNCTAD provided technical support for the Marrakech meeting of the Group of 77 and China on SSC and SSC was one of the main topics at the ninth session of UNCTAD in June 2004. WTO has given prominence to the potential for further reduction of tariff barriers to foster an expansion in South-South trade. The International Trade Centre also continued to promote South-South trade, bringing buyers and sellers together to increase local production in such strategic trade areas as the pharmaceutical market.

12. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization initiated a major interregional South-South project with India to facilitate the transfer of technologies and expertise in low-cost housing to African, Asian and Latin American countries. The project will build institutional and enterprise-level capacities to promote the construction of inexpensive, environmentally friendly housing. The World Bank focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A conference that it convened in Shanghai, China, in May 2004 analysed case studies involving

successful South-South approaches to development issues. In addition to the dissemination of lessons learned, the conference resulted in the establishment of a network of information consultation and coordination.

13. The use of Southern experts, intercountry consultations, training and study tours, workshops, support to regional organizations, promotion of Southern technical cooperation networks and the dissemination of information on innovative and best practices are major elements in the South-South strategy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Codex Alimentarius was established by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) to set safety standards in the food trade. Adherence to Codex standards helps to ensure the safety of food exports, which can lead to greater access to export markets, especially those in developed countries. The FAO Special Programme for Food Security has sent over 2,600 experts and technicians from 20 advanced developing countries to work directly with farmers in developing countries on all aspects of food security. South-South cooperation is built into the main programmes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It is backed up by a variety of regional and subregional networks supported by UNESCO regional offices. The networks engage in information exchange and capacity-building.

14. UNDP has been closely monitoring its support of SSC, identifying areas where increased assistance is required. It has established an electronic monitoring system that tracks the use of South-South solutions in all the UNDP practice areas: reducing human poverty; democratic governance; energy and environment; crisis prevention and recovery; and combating HIV/AIDS. Using service lines as activities that pinpoint results in these practice areas, UNDP has been able to obtain an overview of the extent to which South-South solutions are used in its programmes from the subregional to the interregional level. A total of 139 programme countries reported on the use of best practices, Southern institutions, expert advisory services and the procurement of goods and services from developing countries.

15. The overall conclusion of the survey is that a high level of emphasis on South-South approaches to development was observed in 40 per cent of the total number of UNDP country programmes. These approaches consist of the use of Southern experts, Southern institutions and the procurement of goods and services from the countries of the South as well as the provision of support to programmes that are subregional, regional or even interregional. The rate of 40 per cent means that UNDP has not fully mainstreamed SSC into its activities, but significant, measurable progress has been achieved. It is noteworthy that this rate of compliance was achieved without the setting of any formal targets. From 2005 onward, it is expected that the percentage of SSC in UNDP programmes will increase significantly now that SSC has been designated as one of the organization's six development drivers.

16. The survey shows that use of SSC varies considerably according to region and practice area. In Africa, use of SSC was highest in HIV/AIDS programmes and initiatives to foster democratic governance, while the lowest level of use was found in activities focused on poverty reduction and crisis prevention and recovery. This contrasts with other regions, such as Asia and the Pacific, where programmes on crisis prevention and energy and the environment ranked highest in seeking SSC solutions, whereas private-sector development and empowerment of civil society showed the lowest emphasis on this form of cooperation. Country offices in Latin

America and the Caribbean indicated that crisis prevention and recovery together with democratic governance were the areas where SSC was used the most, while it was least used in the HIV/AIDS prevention and energy and the environment practice areas. The Arab States country offices identified energy and the environment and crisis prevention and recovery as areas with a high emphasis on SSC, while democratic governance and poverty reduction were the practice areas with the lowest rates of use.

17. In the landlocked and least developed countries, HIV/AIDS and democratic governance were the areas where SSC was used most often, while energy and the environment and crisis prevention were areas with low levels of emphasis on SSC. In small island developing States, crisis prevention and HIV/AIDS were the areas with the highest emphasis on SSC, with energy and the environment and poverty reduction the areas where it was being used the least.

18. In responding to this survey, a good number of country offices indicated a comprehensive understanding of how SSC can be utilized, while other country offices appeared to be less well-informed. To further assist UNDP country offices in their efforts to mainstream SSC, the Special Unit plans to undertake an intensive training and sensitization programme for staff at Headquarters and in country offices on how to incorporate SSC into the programmes for which they are responsible.

19. Overall, there has been an increase in the use of SSC by the United Nations development system, with a focus on institution-building and networking, information support, resource mobilization and the improvement of management capacities. To facilitate greater use of SSC, FAO, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and WHO have decentralized the use of South-South-related funds to their field offices. The report containing the review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries (SSC/14/1) gives a more elaborate account of the support provided by the institutions of the United Nations system to promote SSC.

20. Despite progress in expanding the use of SSC, mainstreaming of the modality is still not optimal. Lack of effective institutions and mechanisms to manage and coordinate SSC, together with inadequate knowledge and financial resources, are the most frequently cited reasons for lack of progress. Innovative measures are being put in place by the Special Unit and other focal points in the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system that will ensure that more progress is made in the future.

III. Status, management and use of the resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation and related resource-mobilization initiatives

21. Since the 1990s, SSC has been strengthened by an increasing number of middle-income countries in developing regions. These countries, recognized as pivotal countries of SSC, have become important providers of technical cooperation. They include Egypt, South Africa and Tunisia in Africa; China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand in Asia; Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Latin

America; and Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Turkey in the Mediterranean region and Europe. At the same time, partnerships with developed countries, donor agencies and other aid institutions have emerged in the form of triangular cooperation.

22. Working in tandem with these pivotal countries and triangular donors, the Special Unit has introduced a number of innovative approaches that are being implemented within the framework of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, together with complementary sources of non-core and parallel financing.

23. The Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation was established in 1996 in recognition of the need to mobilize additional resources to fund SSC as they began to be mainstreamed increasingly into global development strategies. From its inception, resources have been made available to the Fund by both developed and developing countries and non-governmental institutions, reaching a total of $3.914 million through 2004. The donors were: China, $3.15 million; Ireland, $64,000; the Republic of Korea, $600,000; and the Ford Foundation, $100,000.

24. These resources have been complemented by cost-sharing contributions from the Government of Japan totalling $31.5 million (since 1996) that have been channelled to UNDP under the Japan Human Resources Development Fund. In addition, parallel funding has been received from the Canadian International Development Agency ($320,000), the Government of Cameroon ($170,000), the International Development Research Centre ($400,000), the International Telecommunication Union ($1.2 million), the Japan International Cooperation Agency ($1.11 million) and the Rockefeller Foundation ($157,000).

25. Total funding generated from 1996 to 2005 from all of these sources amounted to $38,771,000. In March 2005, contributions for tsunami recovery were made to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation by the Governments of Algeria and of China as well as private enterprise in Brazil and Suriname.

26. Together, these resources have supported the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through work in the focus areas enumerated in the Second Cooperation Framework for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. These include: support for policy dialogue and consensus-building; sharing of development information; increased South-South economic cooperation; and support for South-South science and technology for poverty eradication. The Special Unit undertook a number of strategic initiatives, many of which focused on least developed countries, especially in Africa. The Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in October 2003, explored issues faced by Africa in the global economy, drawing on lessons from the Asian development experience that African policymakers could adapt to their own contexts.

27. Another significant effort is the project for Africa-Asia joint research, which involved the development by an international research network of a new variety of rice called New Rice for Africa (NERICA), which is suited to African growing conditions. Combining the best traits of African and Asian rice species, this variety was developed by a team of experts from 17 West African countries, China, Colombia, France, Japan, the Philippines and the United States of America. The Special Unit was the catalyst in the creation of the NERICA Consortium for Food

Security in sub-Saharan Africa to implement the Africa Rice Initiative. The initiative aims to scale up the dissemination of NERICA varieties throughout Africa with support of over $35 million, including the contributions of the African Development Bank and the Government of Japan. It has been recognized by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as one of the most promising initiatives for the improvement of food security in Africa. The dissemination of NERICA varieties is expected to increase the rice production of Africa significantly, thereby replacing costly imports.

28. Expanding on the already growing links between developing regions of the South, the Special Unit is helping to strengthen capacities in African countries with help from pivotal countries in Asia, focusing on building local-level institutions for poverty alleviation. With support from Japan, activities are under way on a programme for Africa-Asia cooperation in local governance. The objective is to facilitate the growth of two local governance networks in Africa and Asia that will help the Member countries to collaborate and draw on one another's experiences in building governance environments conducive to socio-economic development.

29. New business partnerships are being fostered by the Special Unit as it organizes forums for African and Asian businesses to catalyse investment and technology transfer at the enterprise level. The Africa-Asia Business Forum aims to stimulate trade and investment between countries in both regions, bringing together business representatives to discuss possible joint ventures, bilateral agreements, enterprise exchanges and a variety of business instruments. Existing arrangements to establish business linkages between African and Asian entrepreneurs are being transformed into an electronic platform that empowers companies participating in the Africa-Asia Business Forum to identify partners in either region via the Internet.

30. The Africa-Asia small and medium-scale enterprise network supports the transfer and sharing of best practices in the promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises policy and institutional reforms as well as capacity development to promote trade and investment. This is being done through TECHNONET AFRICA, which will be supported by the parallel Asian network. Based on the findings of the needs assessment study undertaken by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the programme aims at facilitating strategically important cluster small and medium-scale enterprises in seven TECHNONET AFRICA member countries to develop necessary policy and institutional measures to support and reform small and medium-scale enterprises, create opportunities for small and medium-scale enterprise foreign investment and strengthen the partnership between TECHNONET AFRICA and TECHNONET ASIA. The programme will include: development of 100 competitive cluster small and medium-scale enterprises; capacity development to support lending schemes; development of marketing skills and systems; policy and institutional reform; development of cluster small and medium-scale enterprise parks; technology matchmaking; and trade and investment promotion. The total investment envisaged for the overall programme is estimated at more than $200 million.

31. An environmental management initiative of the Special Unit has brought together a number of Asian and African countries in efforts to protect endangered coastal and marine resources in the Gulf of Guinea. Under the Africa-Asia Eco-partnership programme, activities are being undertaken in solid waste management and wastewater management in five African cities and six Asian cities, building on

public-private partnerships and community participation. The Rural Development Project for improving livelihoods in rural areas, which is assisting displaced people and local villagers living in two Cambodian provinces with a population of 1.4 million, is an example of triangular cooperation, in this case among Cambodia, four countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and Japan.

32. Given the solid track record of these activities, funded not from regular resources but rather through the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and cost-sharing, the prospects for increasing financial resources for an expansion of these programmes appear to be good, especially if an innovative strategy for resource mobilization is pursued. Such a strategy is already being adopted with the establishment of a funding facility for tsunami recovery within the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation. This effort targets contributions from developing-country Governments, private companies and public donations towards post-tsunami recovery and reconstruction.

33. Another important factor with respect to funding is the steadily expanding role of pivotal-country programmes for SSC. In recent years, the magnitude of these assistance programmes has increased significantly; such programmes have therefore become more important as both an ongoing and a potential source of funding and resources for SSC. For example, India, Brazil and South Africa have initiated a joint partnership with UNDP (known as the IBSA initiative) to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the goal to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. These concerted efforts on the part of major developing countries represent a significant breakthrough in SSC. The Special Unit and its outposted staff are especially well-placed to build on this new momentum by developing closer links with South-South national focal points in pivotal countries in order to better target programmes of assistance, design projects and activities more effectively and encourage an overall increase in financial and human resources available for knowledge transfers to non-pivotal developing countries, especially least developed countries.

34. The Special Unit aims to mobilize additional resources ($5.15 million) in cash and in kind contributions over the period 2005/07 to supplement the regular resources and other funds already committed by various partners, as indicated in the table below. A three-pronged strategy will be adopted to achieve this objective:

(a) *Strategic programme formulation.* A number of strategic programmes with the potential to attract support from various partners will be formulated as mechanisms to facilitate the transfer of South-South capacities and know-how through science and technology exchanges in areas such as small and medium-scale enterprise development, community-based disaster management and recovery, HIV/AIDS prevention, food security and other areas relating to the Millennium Development Goals. In all these initiatives, efforts will be made to ensure a gender perspective. Furthermore, the Special Unit will place greater emphasis on reaching out to traditional donors, pivotal countries, foundations and the private sector. Initial efforts have already produced promising results. For example, South Africa has made a commitment to contribute $300,000 towards the development of small and medium-scale enterprises.

(b) *Matching needs and offers of development assistance.* In this effort, the Special Unit is establishing networking arrangements with a wide range of civil society organizations to provide South-South responses to the recent tsunami and

other natural disasters in the developing world. By making the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation available to Southern countries wishing to fund reconstruction efforts in countries hit by the recent tsunami, the Special Unit has mobilized over $3 million. With these and expected additional resources, the Special Unit aims to fund initiatives that will generate shareable knowledge on community-based responses to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions;

(c) *Public-private partnering.* A number of programmes that the Special Unit is formulating will be designed with a view to enhancing South-South public-private partnerships to boost South-South trade and technology transfer, with funding from Southern multinational companies and chambers of commerce. As the Special Unit proceeds to expand TECHNONET ASIA to include members in the regions of Africa, the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean, it is anticipated that private-sector partners benefiting from such a wide network will be willing to support the initiative. In regard to SSC in science and technology, the approach of the Special Unit to mobilizing additional resources is based on the formation of partnerships in order to harness its partners' intellectual and financial resources. It is envisaged that collaboration with such entities as ECA, the Princeton-based Millennium Science Initiative that has branches in Brazil, Chile, Ghana, Mexico, Nigeria and Uganda, and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World will result in concrete programmes to help to implement various declarations and activities by developing countries in regard to SSC in science and technology.

Table

Resources: actual and to be mobilized

(Millions of United States dollars)

Sources	*Resources required*			
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
UNDP regular resources				
Estimated carryover into 2005	2.50			2.50
Track line 1.5	4.40	4.75	4.70	13.85
Subtotal	**6.90**	**4.75**	**4.70**	**16.35**
Other resources (Voluntary Trust Fund)				
China	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries		1.00	1.00	2.00*
India, Brazil, South Africa		.45	.40	.85*
Subtotal	**1.00**	**2.45**	**2.40**	**5.85**
Third-party cost-sharing				
Japan	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00

Sources	Resources required			
	2005	2006	2007	Total
Other donors	.30	1.00	1.00	2.30*
Private sector	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	**1.30**	**2.00**	**2.00**	**5.30**
Grand total	**9.20**	**9.20**	**9.10**	**27.50**

* To be mobilized.

IV. Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of South-South cooperation

35. The Third Cooperation Framework (2005-2007) constitutes the core strategy for the Special Unit to perform effectively its General Assembly-mandated functions as the United Nations development system coordinator for SSC. It has been formulated with the benefit of experience derived from the implementation of the two earlier frameworks. The lessons learned that were pinpointed in evaluations are strongly reflected in the current framework, which guides the Special Unit. The main elements of this past experience that have been reflected in the strategy of the Special Unit include the following:

(a) Use advocacy as a tool for the effective promotion of SSC through campaigns, meetings, workshops and seminars to mainstream SSC and to leverage resources of the United Nations system;

(b) Support initiatives that demonstrate the relevance of SSC by undertaking practical, innovative activities that have a visible development impact and that can serve as models for replication, drawing on its experience with, for example, the development of NERICA;

(c) Build on the momentum that has been gathering among developing countries as they form regional alliances through, inter alia, the formulation of programmes that are in line with regional and subregional development frameworks, such as NEPAD;

(d) Increase linkages with civil society and the private sector by establishing partnerships with these entities in order to harness their resources and expertise in the formulation and implementation of programmes that respond to development needs expressed during various South-South forums;

(e) Give priority to triangular cooperation, involving the participation of developed countries, in order to assist nations in difficult development circumstances by pooling the financial resources, technology, institutional capacities and expertise of the more advanced or pivotal countries with those of traditional donors;

(f) Strengthen linkages between South-South programmes supported by UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations development system by working more closely with these entities in all of the activities of the Special Unit;

(g) Capitalize on the momentum generated by international conferences on SSC through concerted, specific follow-up actions that address the common concerns of developing countries expressed in these forums;

(h) Accelerate the development of an Internet-enabled platform through which development partners can develop rosters of Southern expertise, share Southern best practices and innovative experiences, and strengthen links between Southern institutions.

36. The foundation of the implementation strategy of the Special Unit, as expressed in the Third Cooperation Framework, is based on three policy and operational support platforms.

Platform one: policy development, research, dialogue and mainstreaming

37. The Special Unit will engage with developing countries in order to align the South-South agenda with the Millennium Development Goals. This will consist of efforts to create consortiums, associations and other collaborative linkages among institutions, centres of excellence and experts in the South in order to act upon relevant South-South action plans. The Special Unit will assist countries in the South in establishing mechanisms for more effective implementation of policies, agreements and action plans. In the establishment of implementation mechanisms, particular attention will be paid to the needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

38. Continuing to build on prior experience, the Special Unit will support more comprehensive research and analysis of South-South issues through the publication of the development journal, *Cooperation South*, as well as the forthcoming *South Report*. This will be done in partnership with Southern centres of excellence, universities and research centres.

39. Advisory services and other inputs will be provided by the Special Unit to enhance the mainstreaming of SSC into the work of UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations development system. This will consist of the preparation of guidelines on how to include SSC in programming documents of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. Educational and training materials will be developed, targeting such various audiences as junior Professional officers of the United Nations system and national focal points for South-South cooperation. Promotional materials, including videos, brochures and booklets, will be distributed at workshops, meetings and conferences. These efforts will help to make SSC a driver of development effectiveness in the UNDP practice areas, as expressed by the Executive Board during its second annual session in September 2004.

40. The Special Unit will also collaborate with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC) in order to foster triangular cooperation by strengthening working relations between the States members of OECD/DAC and developing countries that provide development assistance to other countries in the South.

Platform two: creation of an enabling environment and mechanisms for expanded South-South business cooperation and technology exchanges for poverty reduction

41. To promote joint venture arrangements and other forms of intra-South entrepreneurship development, the Special Unit will provide support for dialogue between the public and private sectors on such topics as market reform, privatization and development of small and medium-scale enterprises. This will be accomplished by, among other things, organizing conferences or funding the preparation of analytical papers by technical experts.

42. The Special Unit will also work with public-sector authorities and business leaders to create the enabling policy and market environment for increased intra-South trade and investment flows, especially to Africa. This will involve facilitating the formation of joint venture arrangements and technology exchanges. With regard to the latter, the Special Unit will facilitate the creation of linkages between technology exchange centres in middle-income countries and similar entities in poorer countries in the South.

43. The Special Unit will continue to provide administrative support to the Africa-Asia Business Forum, with the financial backing of the Government of Japan and other partners. It will aim to transform the Forum from an event-driven initiative into a self-sustaining, economically viable process of generating business and investment in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries in Africa and other regions.

44. On the basis of experience drawn from TECHNONET ASIA, the Special Unit will promote the development of small and medium-scale enterprises in other regions of the South through institutional capacity-building and online networking among such enterprises in the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Platform three: fostering the sharing of Southern development knowledge and solutions

45. In order to scale up the sharing of development-related knowledge and solutions among developing countries, the Special Unit will provide a number of services aimed at fostering collaborative networking among Southern institutions, centres of excellence, civil society organizations and individual experts in the public and private sectors. Initial networking activities that have been launched by the Special Unit between TECHNONET ASIA and TECHNONET AFRICA, with the involvement of small and medium-scale enterprises in the two regions, will be expanded through Internet-based interactions between such enterprises in the regions of the Arab States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

46. A number of UNDP bureaux and offices have already used the WIDE roster platform, including the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the Evaluation Office, the Regional Bureau for Africa, regional centres, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Development Group Office. This platform enables users to compile and share information on experts in the South who are qualified and available to provide expert services in various

development-related initiatives. In this regard, the Special Unit will expand its partnerships with other UNDP bureaux and offices and United Nations organizations. It will also use WIDE to share its publications, including *Cooperation South*, *Sharing Innovative Experiences* and the forthcoming *South Report* and *Southern Development Solutions*, over the Internet. The process by which some of these products are generated will continue to involve collaboration among partners to identify Southern initiatives that offer solutions to Southern problems. Following the methodology evolved by the Special Unit, representatives of selected initiatives are invited to document their experiences in individual case studies and to present them at an international forum for extensive sharing of information with other practitioners.

47. Knowledge-sharing activities will also include online discussions relating to SSC among UNDP staff in country offices around the world and other members of the international development community. In addition, the Special Unit will use information and communication technologies in order to document and share more systematically the policies and practices that have contributed to rapid socio-economic growth in a number of developing countries, such as Botswana, China, Costa Rica, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

48. For the activities undertaken under the above-mentioned platforms to help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation strategy for SSC recognizes that solutions to the needs of the least developed countries and other countries in special development circumstances can be found in the experiences of those countries that have achieved significant economic growth and that have themselves become proactive contributors to SSC. There are an increasing number of middle-income developing countries characterized by their world-class technologies and rapidly growing economies. These countries are in a position to extend their experience and resources to the less advantaged countries of the South that are at risk of not meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The Special Unit proposes to harness this opportunity by undertaking activities with a multiple focus. These activities should result in a critical mass of replicable models that can be shared and duplicated or adapted throughout the South.

49. The expansion of links between all developing countries, especially countries in special development circumstances, and pivotal countries and the strengthening of triangular arrangements with both Governments and non-governmental donors will continue to be the twin pillars of the implementation strategy of the Special Unit.

50. The Special Unit will strengthen collaboration within UNDP at both Headquarters and at the country and regional levels. To ensure that SSC is mainstreamed, some staff members from the Special Unit have been outposted and will provide the regional centres with the technical support needed in shaping South-South components of regional and country programmes.

V. Recommendations

51. Based on the foregoing overview and analysis, it is recommended that:

(a) Resource mobilization efforts by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation be intensified and innovative mechanisms be established to attract more resources — both financial and in kind -- from other sources;

(b) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation intensify support for national efforts to strengthen South-South policy implementation, especially by working with national South-South focal points to harness their strategic location within their respective Governments and through continued training of national staff and other measures to ensure more effective support for the South-South process;

(c) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation work more closely with organizations of the United Nations development system and UNDP country offices to develop concrete measures to further integrate South-South cooperation into their regular programmes. This will include training and sensitization programmes throughout the United Nations system;

(d) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation promote the use of information and communication technology, giving special emphasis to least developed countries and African countries, and encourage the United Nations development system to make its relevant databases more accessible through WIDE;

(e) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation give priority to the documentation and dissemination of information on specific problems and needs facing least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(f) WIDE continue to assist in providing a platform for the international development community to address special concerns of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(g) The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation design and support the implementation of innovative South-South projects that will serve as models for future replication in South-South development programmes.